CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for presenting a sequence of user interface pages to a user, comprising:

page logic associated with an initial user interface page, wherein the page logic is configured to:

detect the user's activation of a control provided by the initial user interface page; and

form a token representative of the activation of the control; and

a navigation module providing a hierarchical tree of nodes representative of the user interface pages in the sequence, wherein the navigation module is configured to:

receive the token from the page logic; and

determine another user interface page to present to the user by traversing the hierarchical tree of nodes based on a navigation instruction specified by the token.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control is configured to instruct the apparatus to advance to a next user interface page in the sequence of user interface pages.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control is configured to instruct the apparatus to advance to a prior user interface page in the sequence of user interface pages.

4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the navigation module further includes history stack logic configured to record the prior user interface page to provide an indication of the prior user interface page upon activation of the control.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control is configured to instruct the apparatus to advance to one of a plurality of interface pages associated with different respective branching options.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the hierarchical tree includes at least one collection node that includes plural children nodes, said at least one collection node and plural children nodes defining a collection of nodes representative of a grouping of user interface pages within the sequence of user interface pages.

7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein a behavior of said at least one collection node is governed by a strategy applied to said at least one collection node.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the strategy is dynamically applied to said at least one collection node.

9. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the strategy defines whether said at least one collection node exhibits a branching behavior or a non-branching behavior.

10. A computer readable medium including machine readable instructions for implementing the page logic and the navigation module recited in claim 1.

11. A method for presenting a sequence of user interface pages to a user, comprising:

detecting the user's activation of a control provided by an initial user interface page within the sequence of user interface pages;

forming a token representative of the activation of the control;

sending the token to a navigation module, wherein the navigation module provides a hierarchical tree of nodes representative of the user interface pages in the sequence;

receiving the token at the navigation module; and

based on instructions specified by the token, traversing the hierarchical tree in the user interface module to determine another user interface page to present to the user.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the control instructs the navigation module to advance to a next user interface page in the sequence of user interface pages.

13. The method according to claim 11, wherein the control instructs the navigation module to advance to a prior user interface page in the sequence of user interface pages.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the navigation module determines the prior user interface page by consulting a history stack that contains a list of user interface pages that have been presented to the user.

15. The method according to claim 11, wherein the control instructs the navigation module to advance to one of a plurality of interface pages associated with different respective branching options.

16. The method according to claim 11, wherein the hierarchical tree includes at least one collection node that includes plural children nodes, said at least one collection node and plural children nodes defining a collection of nodes representative of a grouping of user interface pages within the sequence of user interface pages.

17. The method according to claim 16, further comprising defining the behavior of said at least one collection node by applying a strategy to said at least one collection node in a dynamic fashion.

18. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the strategy defines whether said at least one collection node exhibits a branching behavior or a non-branching behavior.

19. The method according to claim 11, wherein the sequence of user interface pages defines a first wizard, and wherein the method further comprises providing another sequence of user interface pages that defines a second wizard, wherein the first and second wizards share at least one user interface page in common.

20. A computer readable medium having machine readable instructions for implementing each of the detecting, forming, sending, receiving, and traversing recited in claim 11.

21. A computer readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, comprising:

a hierarchical tree having nodes that represent a sequence of user interface pages in a wizard, including:

at least one collection node that defines a collection of user interface pages within the sequence of user interface pages, wherein a behavior of said at least one collection node is defined by a strategy applied to said at least one collection node; and

at least one page node that directly represents a corresponding user interface page.

22. The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the strategy applied to said at least one collection node creates non-branching behavior in the collection of user interface pages.

23. The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the strategy applied to said at least one collection node creates branching behavior in the collection of user interface pages.